

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A process for extracting and purifying naturally occurring zeolite from ores in the presence of other mineral phases by using mechanical dispersion and 5 differential suspension to remove a majority of the clay content of the ore. The process continues by removal of contaminants with a higher mass to surface area ratio than that of the desired zeolite product by employing the properties of demineralized water in combination with a 10 countercurrent flow separation column. No chemical flocculating or flotation agents need be employed in the process.